

Mr. Speaker, these towns are replete with history and rich in heritage. We do well to remember the foundation on which we are built and to continue to add to the mosaic that is the Capital Region, the State of New York, and indeed our Nation.

Congratulations on the celebration of the four towns' 225 years. May our future and theirs be even brighter than our rich past.

PASS THE SKILLS ACT

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Today, the Federal Government spends \$18 billion a year to operate more than 50, often duplicative, workforce education programs. Even with that significant investment, roughly 20 million Americans remain un- or -underemployed. Businesses, too, are also struggling, struggling to find workers with the right technical skill sets to fill vacant jobs on payroll.

Why the mismatch? Why aren't workforce education programs efficiently preparing capable job seekers for these careers? Job seekers and employers alike would be better served by a more responsive, individualized, and modern workforce development strategy. With my colleagues on the Education and Workforce Committee, I have introduced H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act, which will eliminate arbitrary roadblocks within existing workforce education programs, prioritize well-paying, in-demand industries, expand opportunities at community colleges, and most importantly, treat all job seekers as individuals.

Let's pass the SKILLS Act.

TAKE A BUDGET CUE FROM HARDWORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the President to get serious about our getting our fiscal house in order. While imperfect, the continuing resolution passed today is an important step in the right direction. Today's legislation provides the Defense Department and VA some relief from President Obama's sequester by granting flexibility to prioritize spending, helping ensure the needs of our Armed Forces are met. It is time for the Senate to follow the House's lead and pass this legislation.

Instead of campaigning, President Obama should be devoting time and resources to finish his budget submission to Congress, which is already 4 weeks overdue. When mothers, fathers, and small business owners face budget problems, they sit down around the kitchen or office table with notepads, pencils, calculators, and get to work. They prioritize spending and make tough but necessary decisions.

It is time for the President and our friends across the aisle to adopt the same commonsense practices of budgeting and prioritization that hard-working women and men in the private sector use every single day.

LET'S GET THIS DONE RIGHT

(Mr. LaMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LaMALFA. We passed the CR today. We've seen the sequester go through this week, unfortunately. So here we are.

We ask the President to not scare the country and put everybody on notice that he's going to make it as painless as possible, to do the positive things that are going to make this thing work. We have to rein in spending in the United States. It's going to be for our children and our future. So instead of threatening things such as guided tours that don't cost anything becoming part of the past, why don't we move forward with things that we can agree on and that are going to be helpful for balancing our budget and taking the small step towards a future. Yes, it's going to be painful. But it doesn't have to be as painful as when we hear directives to Federal agencies to make it as painful as possible. It's a very disingenuous process.

So let's stay here and get this thing done right and find real things that we can make in reductions to help our country and not threaten it.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 7, 2013, at noon.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

606. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Change to Administrative Rules Regarding the Transfer and Storage of Excess Spearmint Oil [Doc. No.: AMS-FV-12-0014; FV12-985-2 FR] received February 22, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

607. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Disclosure and Delivery Requirements for Copies of Appraisals and Other Written Valuations Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B) [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0032] (RIN: 3170-AA26) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

608. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Disclosure of Records and Information [Docket No.: CFPB-2011-0003] (RIN: 3170-AA01) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

609. A letter from the Attorney, Legal Division, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans [Docket No.: CFPB-2012-0031] (RIN: 3170-AA11) received February 15, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

610. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Flood Elevation Determinations (Bexar County, TX, et al.) [Docket ID: FEMA-2013-0002] received February 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

611. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Designation of Low-Income Status; Acceptance of Secondary Capital Accounts by Low-Income Designated Credit Unions (RIN: 3133-AE09) received February 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

612. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a certification regarding the Essential Health Benefits requirements of the Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

613. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

614. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes To Implement the First Inventor To File Provisions of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act [Docket No.: PTO-P-2012-0015] (RIN: 0651-AC77) received February 20, 2013, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

615. A letter from the Acting Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a claim for equitable relief under the Meritorious Claims Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. COFFMAN (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mrs. ROBY):

H.R. 978. A bill to deauthorize the Military Selective Service Act, including the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, except during a national emergency declared by the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. SOUTHERLAND, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HURT, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HANNA, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENISHEK, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mrs. LUMMIS,